

REMARKS

Claims 8-19 were pending in the present application. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The applicants again note with appreciation the acknowledgement of the claim for priority under section 119 and the notice that all of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

Claims 8-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Ushigusa et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,229,267, (hereinafter "Ushigusa"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted in the previous response submitted February 26, 2004, the present invention is directed to a method which is capable of reducing uneven luminance and increasing service life of luminous elements such as, for example, electroluminescence (EL) elements. As illustrated in Figure 2 of Applicants' specification, an already selected scanning line (B1), for example as recited in claim 8, is switchedly connected to a source voltage (Vcc) to apply a reverse bias to a luminous element such as, for example, E1.1 – E1.256, connected to the already selected scanning line (B1). Remaining scanning lines, such as B2, B3, to B64, are switchedly connected to a ground voltage in the course of switching from the already selected scanning line (B1) to the next scanning line (B2).

More specifically, *during a period of changing* a selected scan line shown in FIG 2, such as any one of B1-B64, from one, such as B1 shown in FIG 1, to another, such as B2 shown in FIG 3, the following occurs as distinguished from prior art methods including the apparatus and method described in Ushigusa:

1) the already selected scan line, B1, is switchedly connected to a sourced voltage V_{cc} from a ground voltage to apply a reverse voltage to one of the luminous elements; and

2) the remaining scan lines B2-B64 are switchedly connected to the ground voltage to discharge charges of elements E2.3-E2.256, E3.3-E3.256 and E64.3 – E64.256 connected to the remaining scan lines B2-B64.

In stark contrast, Ushigusa describes during a period shown in FIG 12 thereof, of changing from an already selected one of scan lines B1-Bn from one, such as B1 shown in FIG 11, to another such as B2 shown in FIG 13 the following occurs:

1) the already selected scan line B1 is connected to a source voltage from a ground voltage to apply a reverse voltage; and

2) the remaining scan lines *remain connected to the source voltage*.

Applicants emphatically note that for the above noted reasons, and in particular item 2) noted directly above, Ushigusa clearly fails to disclose the claimed feature that at the same time the already selected scan line is switchedly connected to a source voltage to apply a reverse bias, the remaining scanning lines other than the already selected scanning line *are switchedly connected to a ground voltage* so as to discharge a charge stored to others of the plurality of luminous elements connected to remaining scanning lines, in a course of switching from the already selected scanning line to a next scanning line, as clearly and explicitly claimed.

Ushigusa therefore cannot achieve the advantages associated with the claimed invention, such as for example, the discharge of charges on elements such as E2.3-E2.256, E3.3-E3.256, and E64.3-E64-256, e.g. the elements connected to remaining scan lines B2-B64 as shown and described in applicants' specification. In other words, without the features of the claimed invention, the

charges in elements Em2, Em3, ... Emn of Ushigusa are not discharged leading to the disadvantages discussed in applicants' specification.

Accordingly, a *prima facie* case of anticipation has not been established in that the applied reference fails to disclose all the claimed features as required. It is respectfully requested therefore that the rejection of independent claims 8, 12, and 16 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 9-11, 13-15, and 17-19 by virtue of depending from claims 8, 12, and 16 are believed allowable for at least the reasons set forth hereinabove with regard to claim 8, 12, and 16. Applicants note that additional ground for the allowability of claims 9-11, 13-15, and 17-19 may exist but have not been discussed due to the deficiencies noted above with regard to Ushigusa. It is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 9-11, 13-15, and 17-19 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

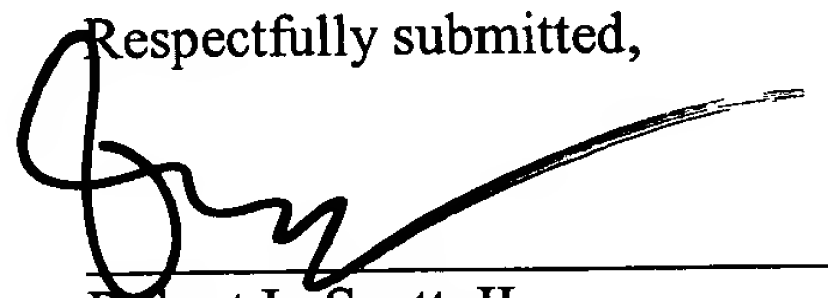
Applicants note with appreciation the careful review of the prior art by the Examiner and the inclusion of Ushigusa to the prosecution record. Applicants would welcome the opportunity for the undersigned representative to discuss the merits of the present application in an Examiner Interview if questions of allowability remain in view of the above arguments.

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In view of the forgoing, the applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Please charge any unforeseen fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. L. Scott, II', written over a horizontal line.

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